



Spring 2011

8502 West Center Road  
Omaha, NE 68124  
(402) 733-1800

[www.nedonation.org](http://www.nedonation.org)

**President:**  
William A. Cutler, III

**Vice President:**  
Clarke Mundhenke, D. Min

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Edward Kohout

**Executive Director:**  
Karen Risk

**Medical Director:**  
Dr. James Billups

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Stephanie Lochmiller

The mission of Nebraska Organ Recovery System is to maximize the recovery and quality of organs and tissues for transplantation while maintaining sensitivity, compassion and respect for people of all cultures.

We accomplish this by working in partnership with hospitals in the service area and by providing education to potential donor families, healthcare professionals and the public we serve.

**Give the Most Precious  
Gift of All...**

**LIFE!**



A Donate Life Organization

## Nebraska Organ Recovery Partners with NHA to add 80k New Names to the Donor Registry of Nebraska

Currently over 110,000 people are awaiting a life-saving organ transplant in the United States. Sadly, each day 18 people waiting on that list will pass away because they didn't get the transplant they needed to survive.

National collaborative goals have been set for each state to achieve a 50% donor designation rate. Currently the state of Nebraska has achieved a 43% actionable donor designation rate, meaning that 43% of all licensed drivers in Nebraska are designated organ donors. Surrounding Midwestern states with similar demographics have far out performed our averages here in Nebraska. Iowa, Oklahoma and Colorado all have donor designation rates that average above 60%, while South Dakota and Wyoming average above 55%. This led NORS to reach out and develop a campaign with the Nebraska Hospital Association to increase donor designation rates across Nebraska.

The Nebraska Donor Drive 2011 was designed to reach out to all hospitals across the state of Nebraska and give them the resources to promote donation throughout their facilities from CEO's to security and maintenance employees. By each hospital employee working to add one new name to the Donor Registry of Nebraska we can collectively add over 80,000 new potential organ donors, and in turn save the lives of the more than 110,000 men, women and children waiting for a life-saving transplant. For more information, visit [www.nedonordrive.org](http://www.nedonordrive.org).



# 30 Years of Perspective

*By Andy Bailey, kidney recipient*

Thirty years ago, January 20, 1981. So long ago, yet I remember it like yesterday. The day Ronald Reagan was inaugurated into his first term as president; the day the Iran hostages were released from prison; the day I received my second kidney transplant. I was nineteen years old, had suffered through one failed kidney transplant and had been on hemo-dialysis for over a year. Transplants at that time were not commonplace and typically always non-related cadaver transplants.

Thirty years gives you perspective. I keep going back to the final scene from “Saving Private Ryan”, where Tom Hank’s character lies dying and tells Ryan – “Earn this”. For thirty years I have tried to make sure I have earned the gift of life that my anonymous donor gave me. I will be the first to tell you I have not always lived up to those expectations that I set for myself.

Too often I let the rigors of life get me down and sour my outlook. Too often my gift of life and my donor fade into a distant memory only to be re-kindled at later times. Yet something deep inside always spoke to me reminding me I received a gift I didn’t deserve, but was given out of love and concern for others during their darkest moments. That realization has a way of humbling you during those self-centered moments. It has a way of reminding you of life’s priorities. Thirty years has allowed me to look back and see what this gift has provided and how many people it has touched.

I have a wonderful wife who every day reminds me what unconditional love truly means. We have seven children, six of which were internationally adopted from Romania, India and Ethiopia. Whether you believe in God or not, there is no denying time allows you to look back at events in your life and rhythms and reasons are established which defy explanation. Every day I look at my children and I absolutely know the reason that I was blessed with this gift of life. My purpose is and always will be to give these children the love, stability and support they would have never had. Not only does this impact them, but it will impact their children and grandchildren. This would have never happened without that gift of life and a caring donor.

Thank you to all donors and their families. Your impact goes far beyond just the recipient. It can transcend generations, and reach across the globe. Let all recipients take a moment and reflect on the grace we have received and strive everyday to “earn this”.

# Hospital Donation Statistics

Statistics through year end 2010

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Organ</b>	<b>Tissue</b>
Alegent Memorial-Schuyler	0	1
Beatrice Community Hospital	0	3
Bellevue Medical Center	1	1
Bergan Mercy Hospital	1	1
Blair Memorial Community Hospital	0	3
BryanLGH	13	19
Children's Hospital & Medical Center	1	4
Cozad Community Hospital	0	1
Creighton University Medical Center	13	9
Faith Regional Medical Center	0	2
Fremont Area Medical Center	0	2
Genoa Community Hospital	0	1
Good Samaritan Health System	2	8
Great Plains Regional Medical Center	1	4
Immanuel Medical Center	1	5
Lakeside Hospital	1	6
Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital	0	1
Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital	0	4
McCook Community Hospital	0	1
Mercy Hospital	0	3
Methodist Health System	2	6
Methodist Hospice	0	1
Midlands Hospital	1	2
Nemaha County Hospital	0	1
Nebraska Medical Center	5	8
Phelps Memorial Health Center	0	1
Regional West Medical Center	1	1
Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center	1	1
Saint Francis Medical Center	0	1
St. Mary's Community Hospital	0	1
Syracuse-Community Memorial Hospital	0	1
Tri-Valley Health System	0	1
Warren Memorial	0	1
York General Hospital	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>106</b>

# Hospital Donation Statistics

Statistics from 01/01/2011 through 03/31/2011

Hospital	Organ	Tissue
Beatrice Community Hospital	0	2
BryanLGH	3	6
Children's Hospital & Medical Center	0	1
Creighton University Medical Center	3	8
Falls City- Community Medical Center	0	1
Fremont Area Medical Center	0	1
Good Samaritan Medical Center	0	1
Immanuel Medical Center	0	1
Kearney County Health Services	0	1
Lakeside Medical Center	1	2
Methodist Health System	0	1
Omaha VA	0	1
Nebraska Medical Center	4	3
Regional West Medical Center	0	1
St. Elizabeth's Medical Center	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>



*Above: Staff from NORS and Donate Life Services with the Nebraska Medical Center came together to raise awareness of organ, eye, and tissue donation at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Omaha, NE.*



## Donor Drive 2011

Donor Registry of Nebraska

Join Nebraska Organ Recovery System as we partner with the Nebraska Hospital Association to add 100,000 new potential organ, eye and tissue donors to the Donor Registry of Nebraska!

**More information will be available to your hospital soon!**

Visit [www.nedonordrive.com](http://www.nedonordrive.com) to learn more!

- **Over 110,000 people are waiting for a life-saving transplant.**
- **One organ donor can save eight lives!**
- **One tissue donor can enhance the lives of 50 people!**

# NORS Holds Collaborative Event at Strategic Air and Space Museum

*Written by Helen Bottenfield, Executive Director, Organ Donation & Transplantation Alliance*

On March 22, 2011, approximately 100 people attended a collaborative learning session presented by Nebraska Organ Recovery System and Creighton University Medical Center held at the Strategic Air & Space Museum in Ashland Nebraska. The title of the program was A Flight Plan for Donation Success and it was pretty clear that participants were creating their individual plans during each session!

A panel of high-flying donation Champions described best practices that were creating results in their organizations. Each speaker identified some process or practice that was directly tied to improved outcomes. Dr. John Cordova provided an in-depth view of pre-donor clinical management and laid the foundation for later presentations. Breakouts included presentations focused on Brain Death, Tissue and Eye Donation, Donation as an End-of-Life-Care Process and specific High Leverage Changes & First Things First.

An exciting presentation regarding donor designation included a presentation by Laura Redoutey, President of the Nebraska Hospital Association, in which she announced Donor Drive 2011, with a goal of adding 80,000 names to the Donor Registry of Nebraska. The NHA is asking Nebraska hospitals to add one name to the Donor Registry of Nebraska for every two employees.

The day would have been incomplete without the powerful and moving story told eloquently by the Bos Family. The amazing strength and compassion displayed by this donor family who lost their young son gave each person present a small glimpse into the life of an incredible child...a child who unselfishly made a difference in the lives of many others! Many commitments to action were made at the close of the day that will hopefully lead to real life saving outcomes!



*Pictured above, left to right: Laura Redoutey, NHA President, Kyle Herber, NORS Operations Director, Karen Risk, NORS Executive Director, take a break from the collaborative activities.*

# How has Organ and Tissue Donation Changed your Life?

Are you a member of a donor family? Or perhaps you've received the gift of life from an organ donor? Do you have a story to share?

Nebraska Organ Recovery tries to feature at least one donor family, or recipient story in each of our quarterly newsletters. If you have a story to tell about how donation has changed your life, we'd love to feature it! Simply email Stephanie Lochmiller at [StephanieL@nedonation.org](mailto:StephanieL@nedonation.org) to submit your story.



NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
OMAHA, NE  
PERMIT NO. 1043

Nebraska Organ Recovery System  
8502 West Center Road  
Omaha, NE 68124  
(402) 733-1800  
Address Service Requested

